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### #MeToo: Why Twitter Doesn't Do Enough

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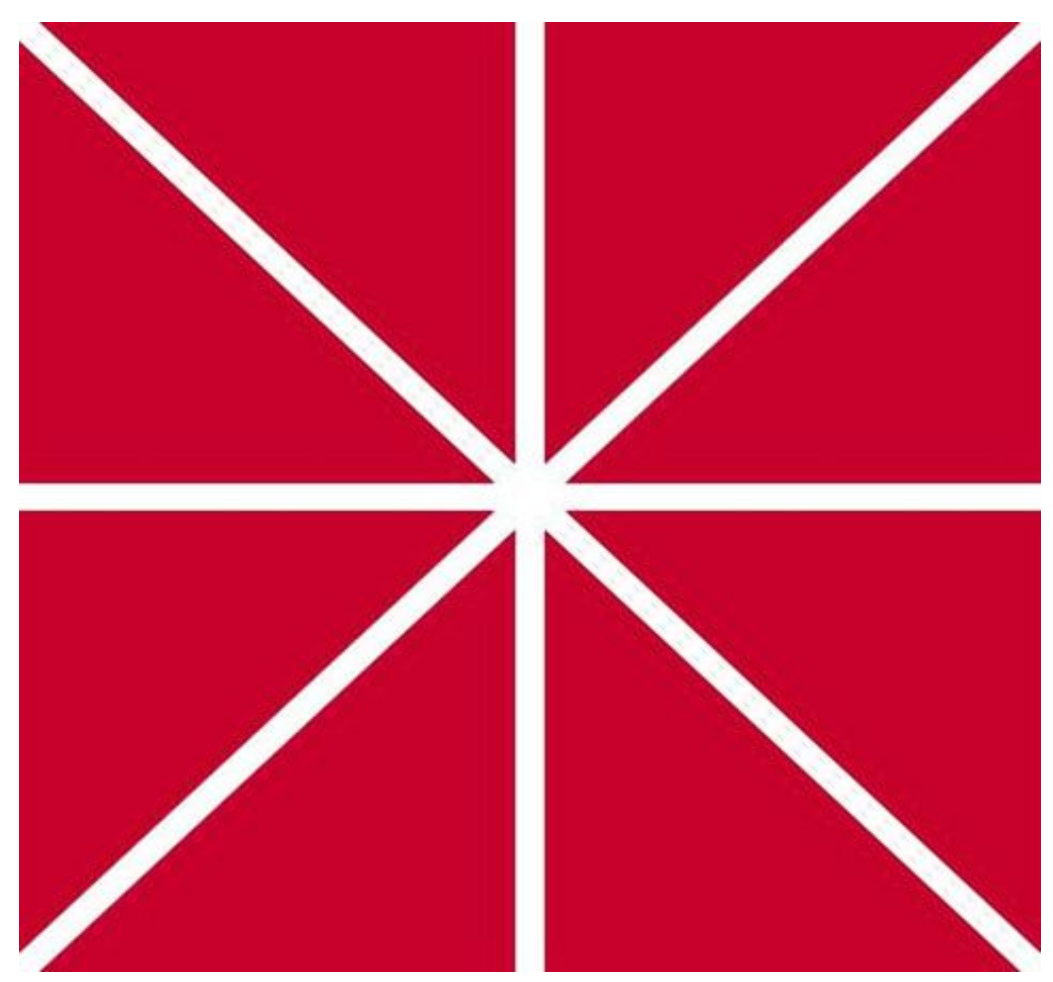
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# #MeToo: Why Twitter Doesn't Do Enough

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ENG 446 Feminist Rhetorics, Professor Ian Barnard

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## How #MeToo Began

In 2017 Alyssa Milano tweeted the hashtag #MeToo to give a voice to victims and survivors of sexual harassment after accusations were made against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.



Milano, Alyssa (Alyssa\_Milano). "If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet." Oct 15, 2017, 1:21 pm. Tweet.

## Tarana Burke

In the 90s, a woman named Tarana Burke worked with survivors of sexual violence, leading her to create a nonprofit organization "Just Be." That sparked the Me Too movement, a decade before Milano's tweet.



Garcia, Sandra E. "Tarana Burke." *The New York Times*, 20 Oct. 2017, www.nytimes.com/2017/10/20/us/me-too-movement-tarana-burke.html.

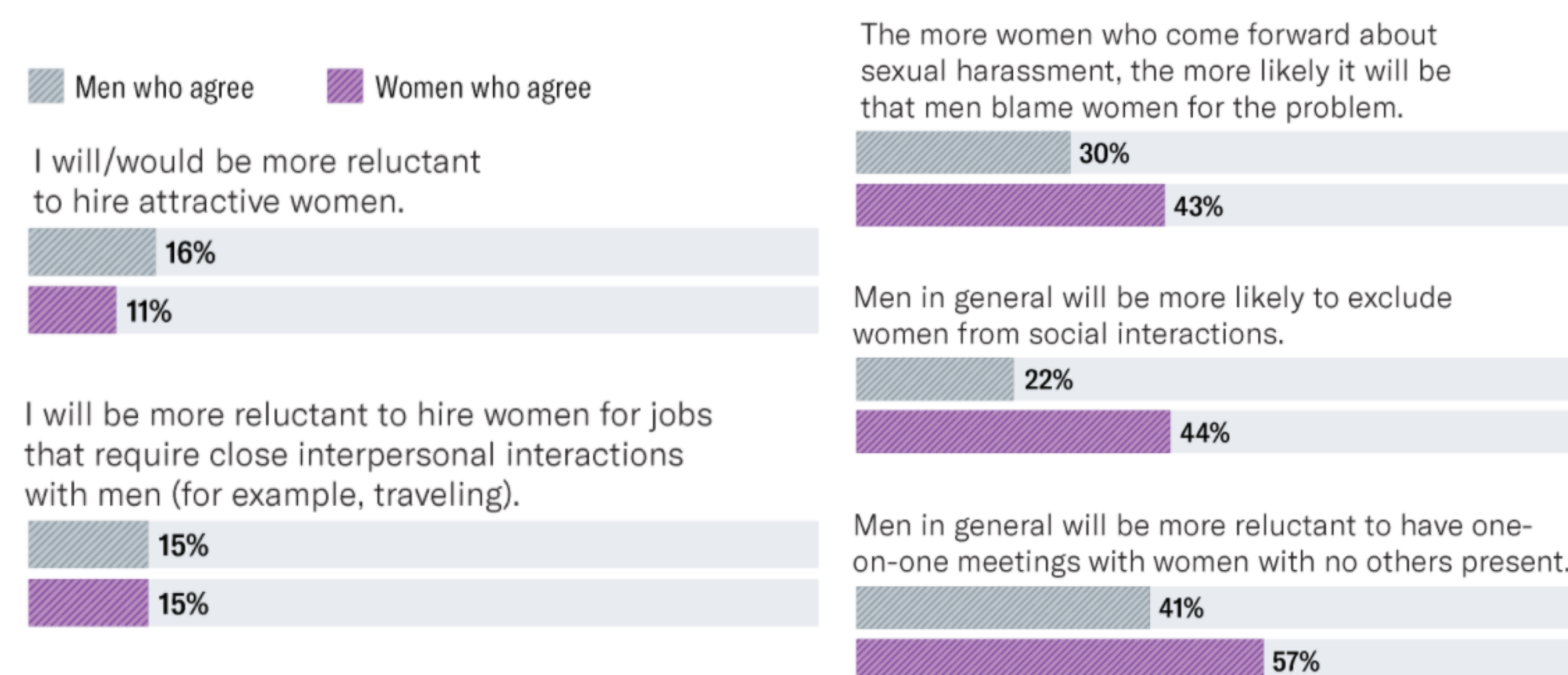


Share the Load (mrschachter). "We have to stop saying the #metoo movement started in 2017. Saying that IS Black femme erasure." Oct 2, 2020, 10:17 am. Tweet.

Milano's involvement—involvement by a privileged white woman—made the Me Too movement what it is today. Twitter is inherently exclusive of people without internet or in place where online content is censored. Using the media as the platform is not efficient because of its focus on perpetrators rather than the victims and systems that allow harassment to occur.

What "celebrity goes to jail or not, is not sustainable as a movement."

## Reaction



After #MeToo exploded, 56% of women predicted harassment to continue but with more precautions against getting caught. In addition, men have the privilege to be optimistic—45% of men said a powerful figure guilty of harassment would be held accountable, while only 28% of women said the same.

## Conclusion

Even with all of the attention given to Me Too, things have not improved as much as they need to. Despite the truth available to everyone about how deep the issue is and what happens to the perpetrators versus the victims, there is still the fear of retaliation if you speak up. There is still the fear that the victim will be punished. While the #MeToo movement is very important and no doubt has improved things in certain aspects, the rhetoric is problematic because it relies on privilege, it is inherently exclusionary, and it does not do enough.

Tarana Burke said it herself that Me Too would not be what it is today without Alyssa Milano, and even so, the statistics show that there is still much work to be done.

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